

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

2

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4374

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

728-730 North Howard Street

and/or common

Atlas Health Inc.

2. Location

street & number

728-730 N. Howard Street

 not for publication

city, town

Baltimore

 vicinity of

congressional district

Seventh

state

Maryland

county

Baltimore

3. Classification

Category

 district

☒ building(s)

 structure

 site

 object

Ownership

 public

☒ private

 both

Public Acquisition

 in process

 being considered

☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied

 unoccupied

 work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

 yes: unrestricted

 no

Present Use

 agriculture

☒ commercial

 educational

 entertainment

 government

 industrial

 military

 museum

 park

 private residence

 religious

 scientific

 transportation

 other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Raymond Ellison

street & number

7501 Park Heights Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town

Baltimore

MD 21208

state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds

Baltimore City Courthouse

liber RHB3437

street & number

100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

folio 112

city, town

Baltimore

state

MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4374

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 2

This circa 1830 Greek Revival building is a part of a series of rowhouses that extend north up the west side of North Howard Street. The two-and-one-half story brick building is laid in a variable American bond and has Greek Revival eyebrow windows in the attic story. The gable roof runs parallel to the street. This particular unit is four bays wide, but was originally two two-bay units, as evidenced in brick seams and the pattern of the row. It is now treated as one four-bay unit with a street frontage of 30'7" and a depth of 67'4". The building sits on the southwest corner of Howard and Madison streets; the main entrance now faces Madison Street.

The first story has been substantially altered. It is completely covered with stucco, except for a post-World War Two shallow projecting bay that is covered with mock wood panelling that has a small window. A modern awning runs around the first story of both the Howard and Madison streets facades.

The four second story windows have brick splayed jack arches. The first and second bays (to the south) have 2/2 sash and the third and fourth bays (to the north) have 6/2 sash. All four attic story eyebrow windows are two-light casements. The cornice is a two brick corbelled cornice. The gable roof is slightly hipped on the Howard Street side.

The north wall faces Madison Street and is eight bays long. The first story is completely altered and the original fabric is obscured by wall boarding; the upper stories are historically intact. The first six bays appear to be original to the building. The first six bays run the full two-and-one-half-story height and the fenestration pattern with splayed jack arches, eyebrow windows and two brick corbelled cornice continues the pattern from the facade. (The pattern of a two-bay deep main house and four-bay deep back building corresponds to the pattern found in the 720 N. Howard unit of the rowhouses.) The seventh bay is only two stories and has a different type of jack arch and a plain cornice, indicating a different date of construction. The eighth bay is a recent frame addition covered with asbestos shingles. Chimneys pierce the roof line over the fourth and sixth bays.

The west wall of the back building reveals that the extension is two bays wide. It is covered by half-gable roof.

8. Significance

Survey No.

B-4374

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is part of the only remaining row of modest Greek Revival speculative rowhouses on North Howard Street. The two-and one-half-story buildings with eyebrow windows in the attic story were not found in any other part of this surveyor's 120-building survey of the Howard Street commercial district.

The size and massing of this two-bay unit is illustrative of early nineteenth-century real estate speculation. The construction of two-bay double houses was a common way of limiting the amount of financial risk to the speculative builder, since the amount of money invested was minimized by the relative smallness of the project. The small amount of space within these houses is also indicative of the status of the laboring class whose means, however modest, permitted them to purchase or at least rent single family homes.

The presence of dwellings, or possibly combination shop-houses, in this block indicates the residential character of the neighborhood in the early nineteenth century. It is possible this building was originally a shop-house type. The first story would have been used for commercial purposes and the upper stories would have been used as dwelling quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop-house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purpose was clearly indicated on the exterior. Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4374

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 19, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

B-4374

728-730 North Howard Street

Baltimore, MD

Section 8 Significance

8.1

The first story was likely altered several times over the buildings 150 year life, particularly as the commercial use intensified. Nonetheless, the only existing first-story fabric is of recent date. The plate glass window, doors and mock wood siding are examples of the low-budget commercial remodellings that characterize Howard Street's recent architecture and indicates the relatively marginal nature of the contemporary commercial street.

The preservation of this building indicates the lessening real estate pressures on the upper stretches of North Howard Street during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, a period when much remodelling or rebuilding was undertaken. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."² The turn-of-the-century remodelling of the first story may have saved the building, as it enhanced the commercial viability of the space. The survival of this building is rare within the Baltimore commercial district. The back building is still used for residential purposes.

² Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

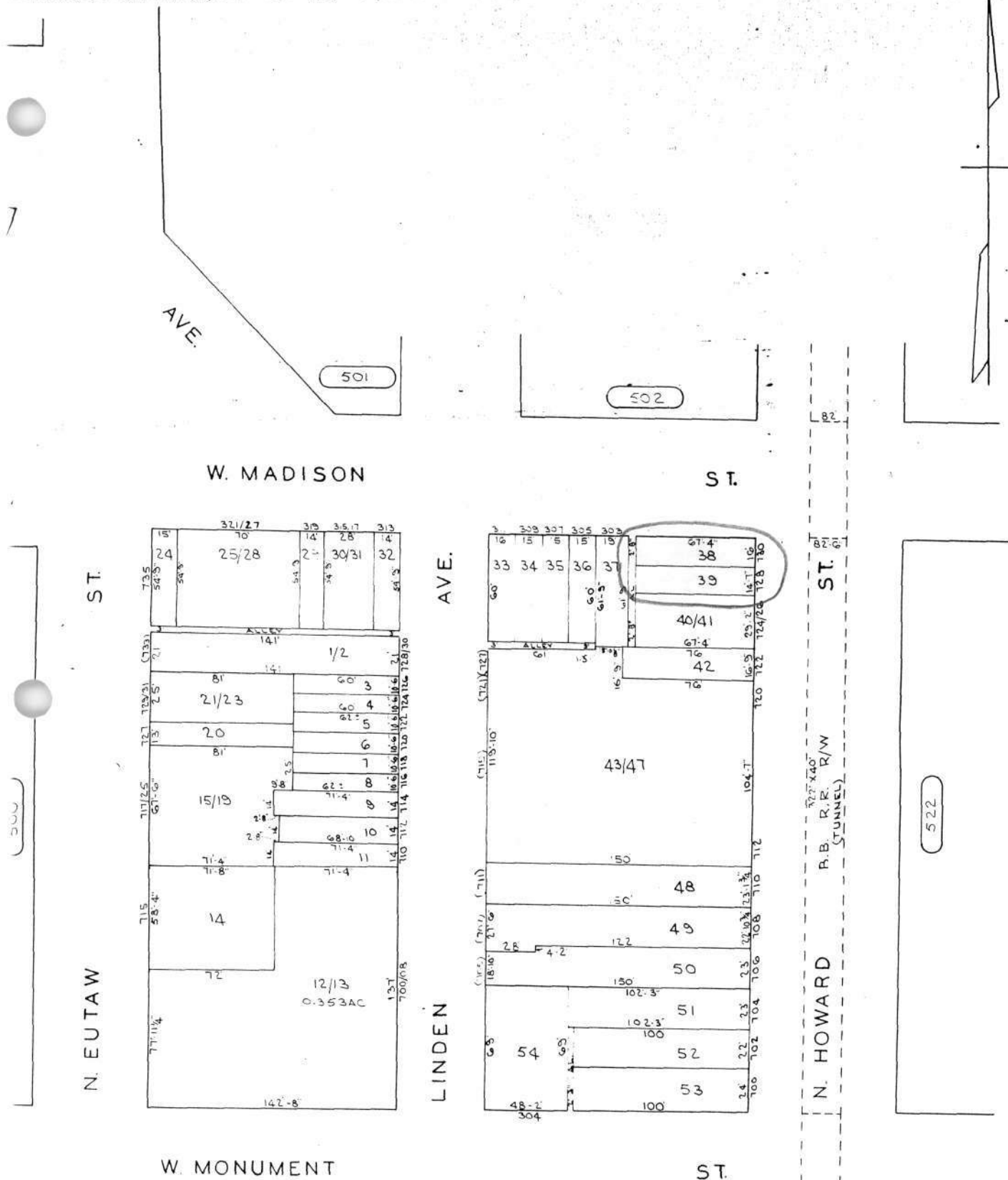
Historic Function and Use:

Residential-Commercial?

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

OTS 12-12/13, 15/15-25/28, 30/31, 32, 40/41: 54 PER DEED'S & PLS. CSH. 85-231-233



NOTE: FOR OLD CONDITIONS SEE SHEET-2

SHEETS IN SET 2
SHEET 1

530

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 11 SECTION 10

BLOCK 521

SCALE 1"=50'

DATE DEC. 1984



B-4374

728-730 N Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

NE Elevation

1/2



B-4374

728-730 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

East Elevation

2/2